

Our forensic pathology group has offered to initiate such a program in our area, and the concept has been well received. So far, only the concept exists because funding, staffing, and other particulars are in limbo. I would encourage forensic pathologists and their clinical colleagues, along with attorneys and judges, seriously to consider the necessity of such programs in their communities. Until we establish a competent system of forensic medicine in this country, we will continue to underserve the needs of victims suffering from all forms of violence.

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REFERENCES

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Dr Salber Responds

TO THE EDITOR: Dr Reiber's letter raises an interesting point. As emergency physicians, trauma surgeons, and other physicians caring for injured patients are becoming increasingly aware of societal violence—including family violence—as a cause of injuries, the need for training in forensic evaluation is more apparent. Such evaluation would increase our ability to diagnose violence as the cause of an injury, thereby increasing the chances for a referral or intervention to break the cycle of violence. In addition, documentation of a forensic evaluation may help injured patients who seek protection or redress in the judicial system. The best treatment of victims of violence will require a team approach. I applaud Dr Reiber's suggestion that forensic pathologists should be added to the team.

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